

**CONTEXT SENSITIVE LABELS FOR A HARDWARE INPUT DEVICE**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

- [63] A method and apparatus for hardware input devices provides context sensitive labels which can change according to an application running on a computer and/or the function assigned to an input element. An illustrative implementation of the method and apparatus includes employing ink having two or more electroluminescent pattern layers with an input device. Based on the context of a computer associated with the input device, an illuminated pattern identifies the current functionality of one or more of the inputs of the input device.